



An historic 19th century homestead, museum, and venue on Merritt Island along the Indian River Lagoon in Brevard County Florida.



Last month marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Ed Field, Jr. served three years in the US Army, 93rd Armored Field Artillery. *Ed, bottom center, boot camp at Camp Chaffee, AR.*

His tours led him to Algeria, Sicily, France, Germany, and Austria, where he was for V-E Day. Along the way we sent home the different currencies he ran across. These notes, along with the letters, articles, and photos were lovingly kept by his mother, Louise Cannata Field.

Something we haven't seen here at Field Manor for at least a decade is clean, sweet well water! In May, board member Tom Ford went investigating throughout the site and found two old gasoline operated wells. The one pictured above, produced water as good as tap water once it was tested.

Field Manor was an active citrus farm for over 145 years. Beginning in the early 2000s, accessing clean water and staving off citrus diseases, canker and greening, became a constant battle. The decision was made in 2019 to no longer treat for diseases and to begin to pull the irrigation lines from our 45 acres. Did we some-how forget about this well? Thankfully it has been rediscovered. This water allows us to maintain a number of trees and other plants, without using city water, as well as allows us to plan for the future.



This stencil, from 1890, was used by the Field family to label their out-going crates of citrus. The labels were produced by brokers looking for your business and were mailed to individual growers. When you next visit Field Manor, be sure to ask to see our stencil collection!



As an alternative to citrus, many Florida farmers are looking for a new, viable crop. In 2017 or so, Field Manor planted six different varieties of pomegranate, at 10 each. Today, about 30 of them remain. We cannot seem to get them before the critters!



This is known as a Strawberry or Jamaican Cherry tree, and it was planted in 2019. The tree produces red fruit that tastes like cotton candy. Although it has been knocked over by a car and a number of hurricanes, it continues to survive and produce. Stop by during office hours and have a nibble!

THANK YOU!

April's 10th annual Founders' Day celebration at Field Manor was nothing short of spectacular, drawing a record number of guests to the historic Indian River bluff for a day of music, food, community, and preservation.

The event sold out of both presale and day-of admission tickets. Thanks to the incredible support, the event raised over \$12,000 — almost four times the amount raised last year — making it a huge success for Field Manor Foundation's ongoing "Raise the Roof" campaign. Field Manor, through a state matching grant, will re-roof the house museum over the summer, ensuring we keep one of Brevard's oldest homes intact, to include our artifact collection.

Local food trucks Bangkok House Express, Indian River Smokehouse, IDK Food Truck, and Strong Island Ice Cream delighted guests with delicious food offerings, while Bugnutty Brewing Company of Cocoa Village once again served as the beer sponsor, pouring their popular craft brews. Additional beer, wine, and seltzer options donated by Dolphins Waterfront Bar & Grill and Victory Casino Cruises were available to guests at the Field Manor bars. The live music stage

featured **HOT PINK**, a fan-favorite local band whose infectious energy had the crowd dancing all afternoon.

Thanks also to our volunteers, staff, and board members who also made this event so successful.

Excerpts from a press release written by Joel McPherson and photos by Tami Hatten



George Folmar and Jon Selden, of Bugnutt Brewing Company in Cocoa Village, have been stalwart supporters of Field Manor and our historic preservation efforts for the last four years. Sadly, George passed away a month ago. Our condolences to his family and friends.

For the second year, **HOT PINK** has rocked our shores for Founders' Day. Our riverfront lawn was full of fans dancing and enjoying the afternoon. And that good time resulted in a record-breaking Founders' Day for Field Manor and our new roof.

As a non-profit, many jobs around Field Manor are performed by volunteers, to include fundraisers. This year, **our volunteers clocked in 138.5 hours** for Founders' Day! Thanks to Gale Nelson, above, and her crew for doing the crowd work for our 50/50 raffle.

Become a Member or Renew your Membership here!

Our members sustain us throughout the year, helping us better plan and budget. As a non-profit, your sustained membership is the gift that keeps on giving. Please consider renewing your membership or become a new member. Check out our *Friends of Field Manor* perks and thank you!

Thank you for your support!

Field Manor Foundation continues our historic preservation efforts and we look forward to sharing some great news in 2025!



Field Manor Foundation | 750 Field Manor Drive | Merritt Island, FL 32953 US

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